

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-6 remain in the application, the specification and claims having been amended to address editorial issues. Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

The present application was filed December 15, 2000, more than one year after the filing of French application No. 98 08 065. Accordingly, as is indicated in the declaration filed earlier, priority is not claimed from the French application.

The amendments made above address the editorial issues raised by the examiner in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office action.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter recited in claims 2 and 4. The prior art rejections of the remaining claims are nonetheless respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a technique for allowing the exchange of signaling information between exchanges that conform to the ISDN standard, but over a link between the two exchanges that does not support the ISDN standard. Information to be exchanged between the two exchanges includes a signaling part and a message content part. The message content part is sent over the link to the destination exchange, but the signaling part is converted from the format of the ISDN signaling to the format supported by the protocol of the link between the two exchanges. It is then converted back on reception at the other end.

The examiner has rejected claims 1 and 6 as anticipated by Benchellal. Benchellal discloses a technique for setting up a data channel between two PBXs that do not support ISDN,

over a public ISDN. The solution is to make use of the Packet Mode Bearer Service (PMBS) which is part of the ISDN. Signaling relating to a data channel and received from a PBX that uses the QSig protocol is received at a packet handler (PH) and passed via a different public network (e.g., the X.25 network) to a packet handler at the other end, where the signaling is received and passed on to the destination PBX. Signaling relating to a telephony channel is passed directly through the ISDN to the destination PBX.

It can be seen that Benchellal is not directed to the problem to which the present invention is directed, but is more or less the opposite of the present invention. Benchellal has an ISDN link connecting two exchanges that do not support ISDN, whereas the present invention has a non-ISDN link connecting two exchanges that support ISDN. Benchellal does not convert ISDN signaling data to data in a format accepted by the other standard. If the exchanges in Benchellal used the ISDN standard, they could be connected directly through the ISDN public network. If there is any conversion that is taking place, it is from, e.g., QSig to X.25 and back to QSig. This is not what is claimed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 6 is requested.

It is also noted that claim 6 is directed to the aspect of the invention whereby the signaling part of a connection is sent over a channel that does not support ISDN but the message part of the same connection is sent over a different channel. Benchellal discusses sending telephony channel signals over the ISDN public network but sending data signals over the X.25 network. This is entirely different.

Amendment  
USSN 09/736,158

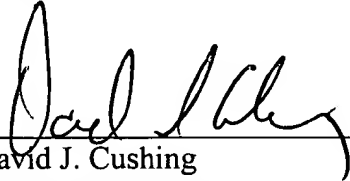
It is believed that the features recited in the dependent claims are also not taught in the art of record, but it suffices at this point to simply note that all claims depend from claim 1 and the art of record does not teach what is recited in claim 1, i.e., the conversion of ISDN signaling data into a non-ISDN format and the re-conversion at the other end.

For the above reasons, it is submitted that the invention defined in the present claims is neither anticipated by nor obvious from the teachings of the prior art.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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